Ocean Development Programmes

1026. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to evolve some special Ocean Development Programmes with special reference to Nodules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to cover higher research and development in deep sea fishing technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. India has a continuing programme to develop the mine site in the Central Indian Ocean (about 1600 km south of Cape Comorin) allocated to it by the international Seabed Authority, with exclusive mining rights.

(b) The commercial value of the deep seabed nodules lies in their low concentration but strategically important contents of copper,Nickel and Cobalt, in addition to manganese. The nodule utilization programme therefore consists of 3 separate but interlinked technological component(a) detailed exploration of the mine site lying at a depth of 5 km below the surface, (b) development of a deep seabed mining system to bring these nodules to the surface and (c) development of cost effective metallurgical processes and plants to extract mentals from the nodules.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Assistance for Development of Pune

1027. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allocate Special Development Assistance for Pune City; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Food Processing Units of Multinational foreign Companies

1028. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the multinational foreign companies who have set up food processing units in the country;

(b) whether some foreign investment proposals have been cleared by the Government recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how far these foreign companies have been able to generate employment in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There is no accepted definition of multinational company. However, for practical purposes, a company having more than 40% of non- resident interest (popularly known as FERA company) was being treated as a

multinational company. Two companies, M/ s Hindustan Lever Ltd., Bombay and M/ s.Hindustan Gum and Chemicals, Bhiwani have foreign equity of more than 40% and are engaged in food processing as per the information available.

(b) and (c). The proposal of M/s. Kellogg company of USA for establishing a new undertaking with 51% foreign equity and reminding equity to be offered to Indian public, has been cleared by the Reserve Bank of India under automatic approval scheme under the new Industrial Policy.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in Fertilizer Production

1029. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortfall in the production of fertilizers during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the extent of decline in the production of fertilizers both Nitrogen and Phosphate together with the reasons for the decline; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of the fertilizer units which are falling short of production targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS(DR. CHINTA MOHAN):(a) and (b). The targets and actual production of fertilizers, in terms of nutrients, during the current financial year 1991-92 (April - October, 1991) is given below:-

(000 MT)

	Target	Actual	Shortfall as Compared to target
Nitrogen	4120.1	4042.5	77.6
Phosphate	1575.0	1541.6	33.4

However, when compared with the production during the corresponding period of 1990-91, there has been a positive growth of 1.3. per cent in the case of Nitrogen and 14.4 per cent in the case of Phosphate production.

The major reasons for the marginal shortfall vis-a-vis the target in the production of fertilizers during the current years are given below:-

(i) Non-availability of natural gas in all the gas-based fertilizers plant from 9th to 19th September;1991 due to ONGC Officer, strike.

(ii) One stream of Hazira plant of KRIBHCO remained under complete shutdown from 26th September to 20th October, 1991 due to a fire accident.

(iii) Failure of critical equipment in all the three streams of Urea plant of RCF at Thal.

(iv) Equipment problem in all the plants of FCI and HFC, SFC Kota, ICI Kanpur, Cochin I & II of FACT,